Copelin (HB 472) **Act No. 958**

Existing law prohibits the use of contributions received by a candidate or a political committee for any personal use unrelated to a political campaign or the holding of a public office or party position. Allows excess campaign funds to be returned to contributors on a pro rata basis, to be given as a charitable contribution to a charitable organization as defined in 26 USC 501(c)(3), to be expended in support of or in opposition to a proposition, political party, or candidacy of any person, or to be maintained in a segregated fund for use in future political campaigns or activity related to preparing for future candidacy to elective office.

Existing law specifically provides that the use of campaign funds of a candidate or his principal or subsidiary committees to reimburse a candidate for expenses related to his political campaign or his holding of a public office or party position shall not be considered personal use by the candidate.

Existing law provides that if a candidate is required by state or federal law to pay taxes on the interest earned by campaign funds of the candidate or any political committee of the candidate, then the candidate may use the interest on which such tax is paid to pay such tax.

Existing law provides that a payment from campaign funds shall not be considered as having been spent for personal use when the funds are used to replace articles lost, stolen, or damaged in connection with the campaign.

New law retains existing law and further provides that any interest payments from campaign funds to a candidate on loans made by the candidate to his campaign shall not be considered as having been spent for personal use to the extent that the interest charged on such loans does not exceed the judicial interest rate at the time the loan was made.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 18:1505.2(N))